

Facility: Seney National Wildlife Refuge
Title: Fire Management Plan Environmental Assessment

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

For the reasons briefly presented below and based on an evaluation of the information contained in the supporting references enumerated below, I have determined that implementation of the prescribed fire and wildfire management programs as described in Alternative C in the Environmental Assessment of the Fire Management Plan for Seney National Wildlife Refuge, is not a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. An Environmental Impact Statement will, accordingly, not be prepared.

Reasons:

1. Protection of life and property is a primary objective of the Fire Management Plan.
2. Reduction of fuels through prescribe burning will greatly reduce the severity of wildland fires thereby reducing the risk to life and property.
3. The prescribe fire and wildland fire use programs will restore fire as a natural process and will be used to maintain fire dependant vegetation communities and associated wildlife species.
4. According to the Intra-Service Section 7 Consultation, the fire program is not likely to adversely affect bald eagles or gray wolves.

Mitigating Measures:

1. Minimum Impact Suppression Techniques (MIST) will be employed in all wildfire suppression and prescribe fire actions.
2. In addition to MIST a minimum tool analysis will be completed for all suppression actions taken in the Wilderness.
3. Each area to be prescribed burned will be inspected prior to ignition, per the Environmental Assessment, to specifically insure there will be no impact to bald eagles and gray wolves.

Supporting References:

1. Environmental Assessment
2. Section 7 Consultation
3. Fire Management Plan



Regional Director, FWS, Region 3

Date: 4/17/03